

My Career in Landscaping and Horticulture



With a *Certificate in Landscaping & Horticulture*, graduates have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Horticulturalist, Florist
- Nursery & Greenhouse worker
- Gardener, Groundsman
- Landscape Designer/Technician
- Plant Attendant
- Hydroponics Technician

Careers in Landscaping and Horticulture

The job descriptions and job specifications for these careers are as follows:

Career Overview

These professionals engage in the propagating, cultivating, harvesting and maintenance of trees, shrubs and flowering plants and other gardens. Interpreting landscape designs to install and maintain landscape environments.

Typical Duties:

- Determine types and quantities of plantings to grow.
- Plant bushes, shrubs, trees, flowers and plants in strategic patterns designed by landscape designers.
- Supervise or prepare soil pots for plantings and cultivation.
- Spray and dust trees, shrubs, lawn and gardens, as directed, to control insects and disease.
- Propagates or supervises the propagation and planting of trees, shrubs and flowers.
- Plan and schedule planting that will thrive in given conditions.
- Erect essential landscape features – walkways, patios, decks and fences.
- Maintain landscape environment by pruning, mowing, edging, trimming, fertilizing and watering.
- Perform routine inspections and maintain trees, shrubs, flowering plants, lawns using fertilizers, weedicides, herbicides, etc.
- Hire, direct and train workers.
- Deliver and market or arrange for delivery and marketing of trees, flowering plants, seeds, and other gardening paraphernalia.
- Arrange for, or purchase, seeds and other supplies and maintain equipment and sheds.
- Record production, sales, receipts, expenditures and other data.

- Follow health and safety regulations – wearing appropriate protective gear and adhering to manufacturer’s guidelines for safe handling and use of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and other dangerous chemicals.

Work Environment

Work is outdoors in extreme weather conditions although some work may be indoors. Work usually starts early mornings with an average work week of 40-hours required with demands for some weekend work to be done.

Use of small tractors, bobcats, tillers, rollers, mulch spreaders, lawn mowers, power equipment like shears, saws, picking knives and other hand tools and chemical application gear are standard tools of the trade. Health and safety is extremely important and industry regulations and product guideline must be adhered to as well as the wearing of protective gear.

Qualifications and Licenses

No formal qualification is necessary; however, employers prefer those with vocational training and some work experience. Certification maybe acquired through SJPP, City and Guilds or C/NVQs. In some locations, special licenses may be necessary to use certain chemicals or apply the trade. In many cases a driver’s license may be required.

Essential Qualities and Skills

- ❖ Ability to read work orders
- ❖ Knowledge of landscape and construction techniques and terminologies
- ❖ Ability to understand and execute oral and written instructions
- ❖ Trade calculations and numeracy skills
- ❖ Ability to read instructions, warning labels, instructions to store fungicides and pesticides
- ❖ Ability to lift and work in extreme weather conditions (wet/damp, humid or hot weather)
- ❖ Dependable, attention to detail, proactive and goal oriented
- ❖ Ability to work as part of a team or unsupervised

References

Barbados Standard Occupational Classification, Minor Group 611 section 6112 page 148-149 –
Government of Barbados, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community
Development (1990)

<http://www.horttrades.com/Imp---sample-job-description---ground-maintenance-worker>

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